

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 16-33 are pending. Claims 24, 26, 30, and 32 have been amended. Claims 16-23, 25, and 31 claims have been cancelled without prejudice. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 24, 26-30, 32, and 33 are now presented for examination.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Ando et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 16, 17 and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S Patent 4,839,729 of Ando et al. ("Ando").

Without any concession regarding the rejection, claims 16, 17, and 19-23 have been cancelled without prejudice. It is submitted that the rejection no longer applies to the claims presented in this application.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Veto et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 24 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USSR publication no. SU 740085 of Veto et al. ("Veto").

Without any concession regarding the rejection, claims 24 and 30 have been amended by the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of claims 25 and 31, respectively. It is submitted that the rejection no longer applies to the claims presented in this application.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Ando et al.

The Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando.

Without any concession regarding the rejection, claim 18 has been cancelled without prejudice. It is submitted that the rejection no longer applies to the claims presented in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the Examiner's careful search and the finding of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objected to claims 25-29 and 31-33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but said claims would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 25, with claim 25 then being cancelled.

Claim 30 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 31, with claim 31 then being cancelled.

It is believed that claims 24, 26-30, 32, and 33 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the Amendment and Remark, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objections and rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 (a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (a) for such an extension.


Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12/31/03


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